



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL
ADMINISTRATOR

Frank Standifer III, President
Native Village of Tyonek
P.O. Box 82009
Tyonek, Alaska 99682

APR 3 2013

Dear President Standifer:

Thank you for your letter and the Council's resolution about government-to-government relations between the Environmental Protection Agency and the Native Village of Tyonek. The EPA takes our trust responsibility and our obligation to consult with tribes seriously. I am pleased to know that our efforts to coordinate and consult with the NVT regarding the proposed Chuitna Project are appreciated.

As you know, the EPA and the NVT have been working together for many years on building environmental program management capacities through the Indian Environmental General Assistance Program. We appreciate the Tribe's ongoing endeavors to develop a strong environmental program and to protect the environment and public health in Tyonek.

The EPA has also worked closely with the NVT during the ongoing National Environmental Policy Act review process for the proposed Chuitna Project. In the past year and a half we have held a leadership meeting in Tyonek, developed an MOU, and had our first quarterly conference call. I enjoyed meeting you and NVT Council members in Anchorage for the signing of the MOU. We understand that the Tribe's work as a Cooperating Agency has been challenging, and we are hopeful that relationships will continue to improve. We encourage the NVT to continue to work directly with the lead decision making agencies throughout the environmental review and permitting processes.

I plan to participate in the NVT's upcoming meeting with EPA officials in Washington D.C. by video conference. Although resource constraints limit our opportunities for in person meetings, we look forward to continuing our work together, and to maintaining a productive government-to-government relationship with the NVT.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Dennis J. McLerran", is positioned above the printed name.

Dennis J. McLerran
Regional Administrator